[redacted]TROL SYSTEMS JOINTLY

(H)

NSAM 156 COMMITTEE

[redacted]

- Formed in May 1962 by President Kennedy to form a U.S. position on National Reconnaissance which avoids dangers of restricting ourselves in international negotiations on disarmament and peaceful uses of outer space, compromising highly classified programs, or providing assistance of significant military value to Soviet Union.

  - MEMBERS: Johnson - State
    Nitze - OSD
    Charyk - DNRO
    Seamans - NASA
    Wiesner - White House
    Kaysen - White House
    Scoville - CIA
    Fisher - ACDA

  - NSCA 2454 issued in July 1962 with 18 points of policy vis-a-vis U.S. Reconnaissance Programs which would:

    -- Maintain freedom of action unilaterally to conduct reconnaissance satellite operations.

    -- Prevent foreign political or physical interference with operations.

    -- Prevent accidental or forced disclosure of details of program.

    -- Avoid situation in the context of reconnaissance program which would be embarrassing.

    -- Facilitate resolution of conflicts which arise between technical and security requirements and international commitments and foreign policy objectives.

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- o In February 1963 studied <u>disclosure policy on U.S. satellite reconnaissance capability</u> pursuant to NSAM 216.

  - MEMBERS: Johnson - State
    Thompson - State
    Cline - CIA
    Nitze - OSD
    Byroade - ACDA
    Clay - JCS
    Charyk - DNRO
    Hilsman - State

  - Recommend against disclosure since it is of doubtful and declining value in crises.

- o In January 1964 studied <u>possible disclosure of satellite reconnaissance</u>.

  - MEMBERS: Johnson - State
    McMillan - NRO
    Scoville - ACDA
    Wheelon - CIA
    Cline - CIA
    Thompson - State
    Chayes - State
    Hughes - State

  - REPORTED TO: Rusk - State
    McNamara - OSD
    McCone - CIA
    Fisher - ACDA
    Bundy - White House
    Wiesner - White House
    Welsh - White House
    Johnson - White House
    Webb - NASA
    Murrow - USIA

  - Concluded that no additional action to disseminate more knowledge of the program beyond the level already disseminated in summer of 1962, e.g., all NATO heads of government, Foreign Ministers, and NAC Permreps were told officially of the reconnaissance satellite program... the fact that we had it, that it was developing well and

[redacted] CONTROL SYSTEMS JOINTLY

was directly benefiting the alliance, and finally that the U.S. must maintain it at all costs.

- o In July 1966 studied <u>political and security aspects of non-military application of satellite earth-sensing</u> -- requested by OMB and OST.

  - MEMBERS: Johnson - State
    McNaughton - OSD
    Flax - DNRO
    Fisher - ACDA
    Sheldon - CIA
    Keeny - White House
    Johnson - White House
    Welsh - White House
    Seamans - NASA

  - Concluded that 1962 policy valid. Also recommended that the U.S. should:

    -- Continue to protect NRP
    -- Consider a major political initiative advancing concept of advancing economic betterment through space activities

    -- Allow NASA to proceed with tentative experimental program subject to limitations established between NASA and NRO.

    -- Encourage NASA to consider relative merits of aircraft over satellites.

    -- Ask USIB to review compartmentation.

    -- Permit non-military programs to profit from achievements of NRP.

- o In September 1968 through May 1969 studied <u>disarmament aspects of satellite disclosure policy</u>.

  - MEMBERS: Bohlen - State
    Warnke - OSD
    Flax - DNRO
    Fisher - ACDA
    Duckett - CIA
    Keeny - White House

Johnson - White House
Welsh - White House
Paine - NASA
Hughes - State

- Draft paper advocated declassification of fact of and forthright discussions with Russians - State.

- ACDA supported this view seeing it a necessary step.

- Final position stated that term "national means of verification" only should be used in the negotiations with no public statements or press announcements to amplify and that Washington should guide.

- This paper was forwarded to NSSM 28 Committee, e.g., the progenitor of the Verification Panel. This position was adopted for SALT I.

o In September 1971 studied <u>SKYLAB earth terrain camera use</u> -- request of NASA.

- MEMBERS: Johnson - STATE
Farley - ACDA
Helms - CIA
Packard - OSD
McLucas - NRO
Low - NASA
David - White House
Kissinger - White House

- Approved 190-B camera for use as an exception to guidelines established 1966 and subject to final review prior to mission.

- Subcommittee reviewing on-going mission at request of 40 Committee.

o In January - April 1972 studied <u>impact of SALT ratification on NRP security</u> -- request of NRO.

- MEMBERS: Johnson - State
  Farley - ACDA
  Helms - CIA
  Rush - OSD
  McLucas - NRO
  Fletcher - NASA
  David - White House
  Kissinger - White House

- Similar disputes on need to disclose as seen in May 1969 paper on guidance.

- Disclosure question turned over to Verification Panel. Inspite of sentiments about the imperative to disclose, Kissinger decided that it wasn't necessary. This decision proved sound.